## The Trail Yesterday

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is the earliest Euro-American Once travelers crossed the arid lands above Ciudad Chihuahua, trade route in the United States. Tying Spain's colonial capital they followed the wide Rio Grande Valley north into New at Mexico City to its northern frontier in distant New Mexico, Mexico. Many of the historic parajes (campsites) and early the route spans three centuries, two countries, and 1,600 miles. El Camino Real was blazed atop a network of footpaths that connected Mexico's ancient cultures with the equally ancient cultures of the interior West.

"Royal Road of the Interior Lands," the frontier wagon road brought Spanish colonists into today's New Mexico.

settlements created by the Spanish colonists became today's modern cities in the Rio Grande Valley. In the United States, the trail stretched from the El Paso area in Texas, through Las made its way up the Rio Grande, through the 1870s, the Cruces, Socorro, Belen, Albuquerque, and Santa Fe to Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo), the first Spanish capital in New and New Mexico. The trail corridor is still very much alive El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro began in Mexico City. As the Mexico. In Mexico, the historic road runs through Chihuahua, 125 years after the railroad eclipsed its commercial use. Durango, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosí, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, and Querétaro to Mexico City.

The trail fostered exchanges between people from man backgrounds, including American Indians, Spaniards, Mexicans, New Mexicans, and Americans.

From 1598, when the first Spanish colonizing expedition wagon road was the main thoroughfare between Mexico

The trail corridor nurtures a lively exchange of ideas, customs, and language between Mexico and the American Southwest. Recognition as an international historic trail commemorates a shared cultural and geographic heritage. It helps eliminate cultural barriers and enriches the lives of people living along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.

Added to the National Trails System in October 2000 by the U.S. Congress, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail extends 404 miles from El Paso, Texas, to Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, New Mexico. Visit some of the places featured here to experience the trail today.



Tomé Hill This distinctive conical hill has served as a natural landmark for travelers from prehistoric times into the present Petroglyphs carved into its flanks and crosses at the top attest to it significance for Indian peoples and Catholic pilgrims alike.

Mesilla, New Mexico, began its life as a part of Mexico, a new community established for Mexican citizens who found themselves on the U.S. side of the border following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1846. Those same settlers found themselves back in the U.S. again after the Gadsden Purchase of 1853. The new town became a commercial crossroads for the Mesilla Valley. The Butterfield Overland Stage stop was one block from the Plaza, and travelers on El Camino Real could stop in Mesilla on their way to Chihuahua and Santa Fe.

## Fort Craig National Historic Site

Fort Craig is the largest of eight U.S forts built along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro during New Mexico's Territorial Period. Between 1854 and 1884, Fort Craig was home to Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry and 38th and 125th Infantry, the predominantly Hispanic New Mexico Volunteers and New Mexico Militia, and historic figures including Kit Carson, Rafae Chacón and Captain Jack Crawfo



Fort Selden State Monument

Fort Selden was established in 1865 to protect settlers and travelers in the Mesilla Valley. Built on the banks of the Rio Grande just north of the traditional parajes of Doña Ana and Robledo, this adobe fort housed units of the U.S. Army's infantry and cavalry. The fort remained active until 1891, five years after Geronimo's capture and six years after the railroad had taken over El Camino Real's role in commercial freight and transport.

The historic route of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro J.R. Riddle, Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA), 014523 luan de Oñate leads Villa de Santa Fe is Spanish ranches and German trader Bernardo first Spanish colonists up established, relocating villages are established Gruber dies on the Jornada 10, 1680, nearly two along El Camino Real north of the Rio Grande, of 1,100 camp near the the Rio Grande along E the Spanish capital del Muerto, fleeing jail at dozen Pueblos revolt over Sandia Pueblo and the Camino Real de Tierra of Isleta Pueblo, including Hernán Cortés. Mexico from San Juan de los the Spanish practices of Adentro. The caravan Caballeros, on Ohkay Pajarito and Atrisco, City is established on the Spanish Inquisition. extracting tribute, forcing historic center. from Texas to California place north of Fort starts with 83 laden Rio Grande Valley dates site of the Aztec capital. into American hands. independent communities conversion to Catholicism, carts. By the six month 29,142,400 acres for back to at least 12,000 now within the greater and brutally suppressing journey's end, only 61 Native religion. This act El Paso del Norte. \$10 million. automobile traffic. Albuquerque area. carts remain with the for traders moving of resistance against column of 129 soldiers, goods through Santa Fe The rough trail jolted the nails loose from wagons and carriages. Hundreds of cobbler's nails, farrier's nails, and their families, and thoufrom the eastern U.S. upholstery nails tell the story of El Camino Real. sands of stock animals. The column traveled as fast as a pig could trot Palace of the Governors El Rancho de las Golondrinas **Keystone Heritage Park** Coronado State Monument/ oday a living history museum This modest, single-story adobe is Kuaua Pueblo Keystone Heritage Park, El Paso, dedicated to colonial New the oldest continuously occupied When Francisco Vásquez de Texas, preserves a remnant of governmental building in the U.S Mexico, this was once an the rich riverine environment of Coronado arrived at Kuaua important paraje, or campsite, Construction began in 1610. Over the Rio Grande. The Archaic pit Pueblo in 1540, he was leading the years the Palace has been conon El Camino Real. About 15 house settlement, where small an expeditionary force of 300 verted to an Indian Pueblo, housed miles from the Santa Fe Plaza, from the Gadsden Purchase treaty, bands foraged for wild plants and soldiers and 800 Indian allies the rancho offered travelers a Spanish and Mexican governors, and animals in the rich marshlands on a march to locate the fabled served as a Territorial Capitol. Since chance to freshen up before adjacent to the Rio Grande, is Seven Cities of Cibola. Instead Source: Treaty Series #208 AO; reaching the capital city or to 1909 the Palace has been the heart 4,000 years old. of the golden city they expected, Gadsden Treaty between U.S. and Mexico, December of New Mexico's State Museum make repairs to gear following a the Spanish found a thriving system. The Palace sits on the north shake-down journey on the trail multistory adobe pueblo with side of the Santa Fe Plaza. more than a thousand village



Official Map and Guide

Bureau of Land Management National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



In 1598, Juan de Oñate's original colonizing party was welcomed at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, christened "San Juan de Los Caballeros" by the Spaniards. By the winter of 1599, the colony had moved to an outlying pueblo, Yungue, which they renamed "San Gabriel." In 10 years the capital was relocated once again to Santa Fe.

THE FIRST CAPITAL

Arriba, or upper river. The dividing line was the escarpment known as "La Bajada," north of Cochiti Pueblo.

RIO ABAJO, RIO ARRIBA, AND LA BAJADA In the Spanish colonial period, New Mexico

was divided into two administrative units. These

were the Río Abajo, or lower river, and the Río

Santa Clara Pueblo Española San Idlefonso Pueblo ■ Pojoaque Pueblo ■ Tesuque Pueblo

San Gabriel Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo/San Juan

Santa Fe Palace of the Governors Cochiti Pueblo Kewa Pueblo/Santo Domingo El Alamo

San Felipe Pueblo Cieneguilla Santa Ana Pueblo El Rancho de las Golondrinas La Cienega Coronado State Monument/Kauna Pueblo -

Sandia Pueblo Casa San Yisidro/Gutierrez-Minge House -Alameda Albuquerque Museum of Art & History La Villa de Alburquerque

The Gutierrez-Hubbell House Pajarito Los Padillas

Isleta Pueblo THE RIO GRANDE The Rio Grande is New Mexico's major river. Its valley stretches the full length of

Bosque de Pinos Los Lunas Tomé Hill Tomé Plaza Belen Jarales Las Barrancas Casa Colorado Sabinal Las Nutrias Sevilleta

Sabino

Laguna del Muerto

Paraje del Aleman

Engle

Doña Ana

Mesilla Plaza

wildlife, and is the state's major travel

corridor. Known to Tewa Pueblo peoples as P'Osoge, or the big river, the Spanish called it the Río Bravo, or wild river, as well as El Río Grande del Norte, or the big river of the north. The Rio Grande forms the border between New Mexico and Texas near El Paso, and the international border between Mexico and the United States from El Paso and Ciudad Juárez.

the state and holds the best agricultural

land, the most extensive wetlands and



Lemitar

Socorro Luis Lopez

> Confederates were turned back at Glorieta Pass, east of Santa Fe, before they could reach the

THE CIVIL WAR IN NEW MEXICO

Confederate troops marched into New Mexico

forces and New Mexico reserves at Valverde,

and took both Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The

Territory in June 1861. They battled Union

gold and silver fields of Colorado. THE JORNADA DEL MUERTO The "Dead Man's Journey" is the longest of the waterless stretches of El Camino Real that the Spanish called jornadas. The "dead man" of this 60 mile, two-day trek, was Bernardo Gruber, who died on the Jornada while fleeing the Holy Office

Las Peñuelas **PARAJES** Paraje del Perrillo The caravans made camp every 20 miles or Paraje San Diego or parajes, served travelers for centuries. Until

Fort Selden

**Bracito** 

Ciudad Juárez

Las Cruces

Jornada del Muerto Trailheads

so on the journey from northern Mexico to northern New Mexico. These simple campsites,

El Paso Museum of History

Mission Socorro San Elizario

Truth or

Consequences

of the Inquisition in 1670.

the 19th century, none of the parajes on the Jornada del Muerto-Paraje San Diego, Paraje del Perrillo, Paraje del Aleman, Las Peñuelas, Laguna del Muerto, El Contadero, Valverde, and Fray Cristobal—were settled permanently. **NEW MEXICO** 

TEXAS

Mission Ysleta Chamizal National Memorial

Engle

MEXICO

Parajes, Presidios and Historic Communities

See inset map for detail of this area.

The Spanish established a handful of presidios, or forts, along the trail. El Paso del Norte and San

Elizario controlled and protected the settlements near present-day Juárez, and the Presidio de Santa Fe protected the capital and northern New Mexico. After 1848 the Americans developed their own

military system of smaller posts along the trail on the Jornada del Muerto, and at Santa Fe, El Paso,

Valverde, Dona Aña, La Joya, and Socorro.

*I-25 exit* #75 or 79

to Hwy 51

Keystone Heritage Park

El Paso

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

Interstate 25

Modern Cities and Towns

Jornada del Muerto Trailheads

Pueblos

Sites of interest

Rio Grande

Truth or Consequences

PRESIDIOS AND FORTS

25 50



## Tierra Adentro along highways, streets, and backcountry roads.

Grande Valley. The Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service administer the Trail together to foster trail preservation and public use. These agencies work in close partnership with El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, the Indian tribes and Pueblos—whose ancestors greeted the first Spanish colonists—as well as state, county, and municipal governmental agencies, private landowners, nonprofit heritage conservation groups, and many others. Trail sites are in private, municipal, tribal, federal or state ownership. Please ask for permission before visiting any trail sites on private lands and check with public sites for visiting hours and regulations. Follow trail signs to retrace El Camino Real de

Real Real El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Original Route

> Albuquerque Museum of Art & History The city's museum preserves and displays artistic and historic items from early Spanish settlement to the present. Exhibit highlights include El Camino Real, Hispanic life, the Civil War, and New Mexico statehood. The museum is near Albuquerque's Old Town, across from 2000 Mountain Road, Albuquerque, NM www.cabq.gov/museum/

Bosque del Apache, or woods of the Apache, was the Spanish name

for the extensive wetlands and forest along the Rio Grande below

Socorro, New Mexico. Today, this region is one of the Southwest's

www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/bosque/index.html

fall and winter to see sandhill cranes, snow geese, and ducks.

State Highway 1, 8 miles south of Interstate 25, Exit 139.

premier wildlife refuges. Birders from around the world come during

Camino

El Camino Real International Heritage Center Thirty miles south of Socorro, NM on County Road 1598, Center visitors step back in time and explore the history and heritage of El Camino Real from Zacatecas, Mexico, to the plaza in Santa Fe. One of

**Visitor Centers and Museums** 

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

Tiguex Park.

(505) 243-7255

(575) 835-1828.

Muerto, the lower Rio Grande and the historic trail. County Road 1598, Interstate-25, Exit 115 (575) 854-3600 www.caminorealheritage.org/ El Paso Museum of History The museum promotes the understanding and significance of the rich multicultural and multinational history of the border region known as "The Pass of the North. 510 N. Santa Fe Street, El Paso, TX (915) 351-3588

The Chamizal Convention of 1963 resulted in the peaceful settlement

New Mexico's State Monuments, the Center overlooks the Jornada del

of a century-long boundary dispute between the U.S. and Mexico. Visitors traveling east or west on I-10, exit at Hwy 54 and follow the brown Chamizal National Memorial directional signs. If traveling south on Hwy 54, take exit marked Juárez, Mexico. DO NOT proceed onto the International Bridge of the Americas, but turn right onto Paisano

www.elpasotexas.gov/history/

**Chamizal National Memorial** 

Street, and continue to follow signs toward Chamizal. 800 S. San Marcial, El Paso, TX (915) 351-3588 www.nps.gov/cham **Trail Administrators** For more information, contact:

**Bureau of Land Management** 

New Mexico State Office P.O. Box 27115 Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115 (505) 954-2000

www.blm.gov/nm **National Park Service** National Trails Intermountain Region P.O. Box 728 Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728

(505) 988-6098

www.nps.gov/elca **Trail Association** El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA) P.O. Box 15162 Las Cruces, NM 88004 www.caminorealcarta.org/



Coronado State Monument/Kuaua Pueblo

at the New Mexico State Monument near Bernalillo.

Both Kuaua Pueblo and the nearby Coronado campsite have

been studied by archaeologists and their history is on display

State Highway 550/44, 1.27 miles west of Interstate 25, Exit 242

19th century rancho, a small family chapel, central plazuela, and an

Visit these sites to learn more about the trail. Sites that are open to the public are shown in green on the map.

El Camino

Casa San Ysidro: The Gutierrez-Minge House The Gutierrez-Minge House is in the village of Corrales, just north of Albuquerque. The original home, built by the Gutierrez family, dates to the 1870s. Today Casa San Ysidro includes a recreated

(505) 867-5351, (800) 419-3738

www.nmmonuments.org/

enclosed corral area. 973 Old Church Road, Corrales, NM (505) 898-3915 www.cabq.gov/museum/history/casatour.html The Gutierrez-Hubbell House The Gutierrez-Hubbell House is a 5,800 square foot adobe hacienda

mercantile, stagecoach stop, post office, and Pajarito village gathering place along El Camino Real. 6029 Isleta Boulevard S.W., Albuquerque, NM (505) 244-0507

www.bernco.gov/live/standalone.asp?dept\_id=3946&link\_id=191954 Access at Tomé Hill Park, intersection of Tomé Hill Road (Río del Oro Loop North) and La Entrada Road, Tomé, NM (505) 864-6654 www.v-i-a.org/tomehill.htm

that dates to the 1840's. It has been used as a private residence,

Fort Craig National Historic Site South of Socorro on County Road 273, off New Mexico Highway 1, use Interstate 25 Exit 115 northbound, or Exit 124 southbound.

www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/socorro/fort\_craig.html Jornada del Muerto Trailheads County Roads A013, E070, Sierra and Doña Ana Counties For more information, contact Las Cruces District Office, Bureau of Land Management.

1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, NM (575) 525-4300 www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Las\_Cruces\_District\_Office.html **Fort Selden State Monument** North of Las Cruces off Interstate 25, Exit 19, on New Mexico State Road 157, Fort Selden Road. (505) 476-1150

www.nmmonuments.org/inst.php?inst=10 Mesilla Plaza Bounded by Calle de San Albino, Calle de Guadalupe, Calle de Santiago and Calle de Parian, Mesilla, NM From Interstate 25, take Interstate 10 west to Mesilla Exit 140, turn south one mile on Highway 28 to Calle de Santiago. (575) 524-3262, ext. 117

**Keystone Heritage Park** 4200 Doniphan Drive, El Paso, TX (915) 584-0563 www.keystoneheritagepark.org/

www.oldmesilla.org/